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**THE RESTORER**

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## Grillin and Chillin

The summer months are upon us and millions of Americans across the country will be heading outside to enjoy some fun in the sun. Warmer weather leads to more get-togethers, pool parties and backyard Bar-B-Que's. As we gather to fellowship and toast to good times, it is also important to take some safety precautions when firing up the grill. 7 out of every 10 adults in the U.S. have a grill or smoker, which translates to a lot of tasty meals being prepared and an increased likelihood of an accident occurring. According to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) most recent data, fire departments responded to an annual average of 10,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or bar-b-que's each year. These fires caused an annual average of 10 deaths, 160 injuries and \$123 million dollars in direct property damage.

Nearly 20% of all grill fires happen in July, followed by June (14%), May (13%) and August (12%). Gas grills account for an average of 8,700 home fires a year compared to charcoal or other solid fuel grills which cause an average of 1,100 home fires per year. One final statistic, 64% of households own a gas grill, 44% own a charcoal grill/smoker and 9% own an electric grill. Regardless of the type of grill that is owned, below are some tips that will keep you and your home safe for the bar-b-que/grilling season.

- **Make sure the grill is stable. Only set up a grill on a flat surface and make sure the grill can't be tipped over. Consider using a grill pad or splatter mat underneath the grill to protect the deck/patio.**
- **Keep the grill clean. Make sure and remove any fat or grease build-up from the grill and the tray below the grill. If using a charcoal grill, allow the coals to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.**
- **Take care around the grill. Never leave a lit grill unattended. Don't allow kids or pets to play near the grill. Also, never try to move a lit or hot grill and remember the grill will stay hot for at least one hour after use.**
- **Cover the grill when not in use. When the grill has cooled cover it with a grill cover to protect the parts from inclement weather, falling leaves and insect activity.**
- **Wear the right clothing. Clothing can easily catch fire, so make sure that apron strings, shirt sleeves or shirt tails do not dangle over the grill.**
- **Be careful with charcoal starter fluid. When using a charcoal grill, only use charcoal starter fluid. If the flame starts going out, do not add more starter fluid or any other flammable liquid to the fire.**
- **Check for propane leaks on a gas grill. Before the first Bar-b-que of the season, check the gas tank hose for leaks by applying light soap and water solution to the hose and then turning the gas on. If there is a propane leak the solution will bubble. Another sign of a propane leak is the smell of gas near the grill or a flame that will not light.**
- **If the flame goes out, wait to restart. When using a gas grill and the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off, open the lid, and wait a minimum of five minutes before re-lighting the grill.**
- **Grill outside and away from any structures. Charcoal and gas grills are designed to be used outdoors only. However, NFPA reports that more than 25% of home fires started by outdoor grills began in a courtyard, patio, or terrace. Also, they reported that 29% started on an exterior balcony open porch.**
- **Be ready to put the fire out. Have baking soda on hand to control a grease fire and a fire extinguisher nearby for other fires. If you don't have a fire extinguisher, keep a bucket of sand next to the grill and never use water to put out a grease fire.**

These easy to follow tips will not only help to keep your family and friends safe, it will also keep your property safe during the summer bar-b-que/grilling season. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe. From all of us at the Gerloff Company, have a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!!



# July 2019

## Events

July 4: Independence Day Office Closed  
 July 10: AAFAME Luncheon  
 July 10: IFMA Luncheon  
 July 11: SA BOMA Mega Mixer  
 July 18: SAABE Luncheon  
 July 30: IREM Expo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 July 4th Holiday Office Closed	5	6
7	8	9	10 AAFAME Luncheon IFMA Luncheon	11 SABOMA Mega Mixer	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 SAABE Luncheon	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 IREM Expo	31			

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